



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
MINUTES – JUNE 10, 2010
Human Resources Training Room
575 Administration Drive, Suite 117C, Santa Rosa CA 95403

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chris Allen, Christina Brenner (Vice-Chair), Jan DeWald
Alicia Kae Herries, Jan Kiely (Chair), Donna Roper
(Officer at Large), Priscilla Vivio

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Mary Basham

JUNIOR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Nadine Jaillet

SPEAKERS PRESENT: Rebecca Hollingsworth, Allison Murphy, MFT, Perinatal Mood
Disorder Committee

I. CALL TO ORDER – INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS:

Kiely called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Commissioners introduced themselves giving their name and district.

II. CONSENT ITEMS:

Roper motioned to approve the June 11, 2010 Agenda, and the May 13, 2010 Draft Commission Minutes. Brenner seconded.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND OPENINGS:

Kiely announced there is one opening in the 1st District, one in the 2nd District, two in the 3rd District, two in the 4th District, and one in the 5th District.

V. SUPERVISOR COMMUNICATION UPDATES:

Roper announced that the Russian River Fire Services District Ordinance passed, which Supervisor Carrillo was instrumental in achieving.



VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Report on Women's History Month Events in Washington DC

Hollingsworth introduced herself as a proud former Commissioner and Chair of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women, Sonoma County resident, and Board member of the National Women's History Project. Hollingsworth pointed out that Women's History Month began in Sonoma County, has changed the United States, and affects people globally, reminding them of freedoms they are fighting for. In 1979 the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women, led by former Commissioner Lynn Woolsey, and former Commission Staff Molly MacGregor, created 'Women's History Week.' Thirty years ago there were no women United States Senators, and today there are nineteen women United States Senators. Hollingsworth shared that at the 2010 national celebration of Women's History Month Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton noted where we have to go, the challenge of the 21st Century, will be the full inclusion of women and girls. There is still a lot of work to be done for women's rights.

Hollingsworth also noted that California was the 4th state to pass women's right to vote, 100 years ago next year, in November, 2011. When California passed the vote it doubled the women nationally who had the right to vote.

Work Plan

Kiely asked Commissioners to come to the July Commission meeting prepared with potential dates for a strategic planning session, preferably in late August or early September. In the past the session has been a half day before the regular Commission meeting.

Scholarship Update

Roper thanked Caryl Alexander and Ginny Doyle for their donations to the scholarship fund.

Creation of Email List for Commission Use As Invitation List

Kiely asked Commissioners to forward to Jaillet email addresses to be used for Commission invitations. Kiely asked Jaillet to bring a copy of the Commission's email list to the July meeting.

Vivio made a suggestion to include all Commissioner names, not only the Commission Chair, on Commission letters that are to be forwarded to personal contacts.

Discussion Regarding Association of California Commissions for Women (ACCW) Membership

Roper motioned to hold membership until the ACCW responds with information on the benefits of joining. Vivio seconded. All were in favor.

Report on No Name Women's Group Event Held May 14, 2010

Roper reported that candidates for all offices attended the May 14, 2010 No Name Women's Group event. Vivio also attended. Roper believes those attending the No Name events are good Commissioner prospects, and suggested Commissioners attend the next No Name event and encourage applications.

Nominations and Election of 2010-2011 Officers

Kiely read the requirements and duties for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Member-at-Large then announced the nominations made at the May meeting: Kiely, Chair; Vivio, Vice-Chair; and Roper, Officer-at-Large. Roper motioned to move the slate. Herries seconded. All were in favor.

Kiely pointed out there could be a Publicity Liaison without creating a specific Officer position for it. Brenner volunteered to be the Communications Coordinator. DeWald motioned for Brenner to be the Communications Coordinator. Herries seconded. All were in favor.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation by Perinatal Mood Disorder Committee

Sonoma County Perinatal Mood Disorder Committee, a group of professionals from the public, community, and private sector, working to address perinatal mood disorders presented to the Commission. Allison Murphy, MFT, spoke on behalf of the committee, explaining that Perinatal Mood Disorder lasts longer, is deeper, and has different features from post-partum depression or the baby blues, which usually last 7-10 days after delivery. The committee focuses on the mental health of women from pregnancy to one year postpartum (the perinatal period). During this time women can experience mood disorders including anxiety, obsessive-compulsive, bi-polar, panic and agoraphobia, post-traumatic stress, and psychosis. Murphy stressed that this is a women's issue that is not currently routinely screened for. The group is working with different perinatal providers, sharing tools, having dialogue, and providing training for some staff at WIC (Women, Infants and Children), nurses, and social workers. The committee's immediate goal is to institute uniformed and routine screening for Perinatal Mood Disorder in Sonoma County. Kiely asked how the Commission can support the group. One way is by partnering in submitting a Resolution to the Board of Supervisors recognizing May as Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder month. Kiely will Agendize this request on the January 2011 Commission Agenda.

Women's History Speaker Event for 2011

Deferred to the July Commission meeting.

VIII. ACTIVITY REPORTS:

Junior Commission

Kiely asked who would be willing to oversee this project in view of Famini's term ending. Vivio expressed interest in being part of the project. Roper discussed the project's first need, that of making personal contact at schools to distribute the 2010-2011 applications.

Women's History Month (Basham)

No report.

Community Issues Liaison & Coordinators

◇ Domestic Violence Liaison (DeWald)

No report.

◇ Human Trafficking Liaison (Brenner)

No report.

◇ Legislation Coordinator (Vivio)

Proposed budget cuts disproportionately affecting women including the elimination of funds for In-home Support Services was discussed. Kiely explained that focusing on budget cuts and communicating to the Board of Supervisors follows the Commission's mandate, and stated that it is imperative for the Commission to be vocal and very active on public policy. The Commission may have narrowed its focus to working on three projects, but it is important to be vocal on these projects.

◇ Representation Coordinator (Roper)

Roper suggested contacting newly elected District Attorney Jill Ravitch to better acquaint her with the Commission and its work. Herries will invite Ravitch to speak to the Commission about her vision for the DA's office at the July or September meeting. Should those dates not work, Herries and DeWald will request a coffee meeting with Ravitch.

It was announced that Mike McGuire is the newly elected 4th District Supervisor, and the 2nd District Supervisor is still unknown.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Attendance Report

The attendance report was distributed. Kiely pointed out that Commissioners are expected to attend all meetings, especially not missing more than four meetings out of any twelve month period. The Chair has authority to write a letter to the appointing Supervisor should a Commissioner miss more than four meetings out of twelve. In the past Kiely has contacted the Commissioner directly and asked if they want to continue on the Commission, rather than writing a letter to their Supervisor.

Budget Report

The budget report was distributed.

Correspondence

The mailbag was electronically distributed June 9, 2010. Roper read mailbag correspondence from Melissa Barnett concerning women's troubles with Family Court. Brenner suggested forwarding the correspondence to Christine Cook with the District Attorney's office. DeWald will contact Melissa Barnett to let her know the Commission has forwarded her correspondence.

X. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

- Strategic Planning Dates
- Email Lists
- Junior Commission Action
- Vote to have the Sacramento Public Hearing on August 12, 2010, from 1PM – 5PM substitute for the regular Commission meeting.

XI. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

XII. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 8, 2010 at 6:00 PM.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Kiely adjourned the meeting at 7:43 PM.